

Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC)
***EARLY ON*® MICHIGAN (PART C OF IDEA)**
Friday, February 8, 2008
Michigan Department of Education
State Board of Education Room

Minutes

Members Present: Representative Brenda Clack, Sr. Barbara Cline, Barbara Corbin, Kendra Edwards, Sheri Falvay, Ted Forrest, Linda Forward, Laura Jensen Hunt, Julie Lagos, Mark Larson, Julie Lumeng, Mac Miller, Joan Moiles, Emilie Mullins, Johanna Ostwald, Mark Reigle, Mary Roberts, Cynthia Shore Banks, Pattie Walter

Alternates Present: Lindy Buch, Lori Irish

Staff Present: Jessica Brady, Reneé DeMars-Johnson, Teresa Marvin, Mischele McManus, Cheryl Najm, Nancy Peeler, Dawn Ritter, Barb Schinderle, Vanessa Winborne

Grantees Present: Citizens Alliance to Uphold Special Education (CAUSE):
Roger Phillips and Mary Suurmeyer
Early On Training and Technical Assistance:
Christy Callahan and Victoria Meeder
Interagency Information Systems (Data Collection):
Allan Knapp and Mary Schrader
Michigan Alliance for Families
Sherri Boyd
Wayne State University (Evaluation Project):
Jason Hardacre and Charo Hulluza

Call to Order: Chairperson Mark Larson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Introductions: Introductions were made and members, grantees and staff were welcomed.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mac Miller and supported by Sheri Falvay to approve the minutes.
Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Mac Miller and supported by Johanna Ostwald to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Bylaws:

A motion to accept the Bylaws was made by Mark Reigle and supported by Linda Forward.

Discussion:

With the new Executive Order, the MICC Bylaws needed to be updated. The major changes to the Bylaws include:

- The name of the Council is the Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council;
- The number of Council members is 21;
- A secretary will be chosen from among the members;
- The representation of the Council was expanded to include a representative for homeless children and youth; and
- Director designees from the Departments of Education, Community Health, Human Services, Financial and Insurance Services, and the Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth were not appointed by the Governor but rather designated as Ex-Officio members.

Motion carried.

MICC Officers:

To fulfill the requirements of the Executive Order and the Bylaws, a Co-Chair and Secretary are needed. The Co-Chair must be a parent representative. The duties of the Co-Chair include assisting the Chairperson at MICC meetings, serving on the Executive Board and fulfilling the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence. By having a parent fill this role, it is an important reminder to the field that parents are part of the core leadership of the MICC. It also builds leadership capacity and helps to ensure the parent voice is present throughout the work of the MICC.

The Secretary will proof read the minutes and present them to the Council. He/she would also serve on the Executive Board and help with other duties as desired.

MICC members who are interested in either position should contact Barb Schinderle (517-241-2591 or schinderleb@michigan.gov) by April 17, 2008. Members will vote at the May 9, 2008 MICC meeting for these officers.

Clarification of Executive Order:

The new Executive Order changed the membership of the MICC. In the past, there were two representatives from the Department of Community Health; one from Public Health and one from Mental Health. The two agencies run different programs and one person cannot adequately represent both programs. Public Health also includes Medicaid, which is also not represented. For Education, there was not a representative from Special Education (619) to offer expertise about children age 3-5. Another missing voice is a representative from the Department of Human Services for the child care entity.

These individuals cannot be added to the MICC as voting members because the ratio of parents to professionals would not be equal, and the Governor's office is not going to issue another

Executive Order. Members were in agreement that these voices are necessary at the MICC table. Without a Medicaid representative, discussions about billing Medicaid for *Early On* services would not be productive. Discussions pertaining to children ages 3-5 who are in Special Education are not taking place at SEAC meetings and need to be occurring at MICC meetings. A representative from the 619 program is needed because according to the Executive Order, the Council may advise and assist the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) regarding the provision of services for children from birth through the age of 5. The need for a voice from the child care entity is also important since many of these children are in child care. If these voices are not present, they will not hear the concerns being shared or be able to participate in the discussions taking place to improve the system.

To ensure these voices are present at the MICC meetings, members would like a letter written and sent to agency directors asking if appropriate individuals could be assigned to attend the MICC meetings.

A motion was made by Mac Miller and supported by Johanna Ostwald to have a letter written by Mark Larson on behalf of the MICC to invite individuals from Medicaid, Public Health, Special Education 619 and the Department of Human Services Child Care entity to be present at MICC meetings.
Motion carried.

A suggestion was also made to invite the Director of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) to attend the MICC meetings.

Annual Performance Report (APR) and Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) letter:

The APR was submitted February 1, 2008. Copies of the APR are in the binders. The APR is an important document and outlines the priorities that will be addressed each year. It contains 14 indicators, or priorities, with activities and timelines to achieve the goals and improve outcomes for young children and their families.

OSEP made a verification visit to Michigan in November. The follow up letter to MDE has not been received yet.

Each year Michigan receives money from the federal government to operate Part C of IDEA (*Early On*). The 2008 Part C federal projected grant award for Michigan is \$12,638,500. This could change and will most likely be less, based on census data. This amount is available July 1, 2008.

The *Early On* funding formula was distributed. Vanessa Winborne explained the breakdown of how the funds are distributed to the 57 Intermediate School Districts. At the May 9, 2008 MICC meeting, members will discuss forming an Ad Hoc committee to look at changing the current structure.

Considerations for the Ad Hoc are:

- The funding formula would not be changed in 2008, but rather the changes would be put into place for 2009.
- Each ISD could provide input on a form developed by the Ad Hoc.
- MDE would consult with OSEP to see if any changes in the funding formula would require formal public comments.

Parent Support policy:

As of November 2007, MDE issued a new parent reimbursement policy that balanced their budget, allowed for supporting more parents, and aligned with the reimbursements offered by Special Education. It was a change from the policy of past years, moving to a standard rate for half-day meetings, full-day meetings and conference calls. Documents containing the budget based on the past and new policy were distributed.

The change has implications for partner agencies who provide reimbursements to parents, and agency personnel would like to have been part of the discussion, since the past MDE policy was accepted by many agencies within the state. Some fear that the policy will discourage parents who live a great distance from Lansing from participating, since all parents receive the same reimbursement rate regardless of the amount of miles traveled.

Council members asked that this policy be re-examined and that a small group, containing more parents and agency personnel, be involved in the decision-making process. A meeting will be set up to review the budget and discuss possible alternatives, and will be reported to the MICC at the May meeting.

Public Hearing Comments for Part C:

A formal public comment period was held in the fall of 2007. Issues related to Part C include changing the definition of eligibility for *Early On*, changes to the established conditions list, and amending the State Plan to reflect the proposed changes. Comments were received and shared with MICC members.

The Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services received all the comments and is in the process of reviewing them. Each comment will be responded to and a decision will be made on whether or not a change will be made.

The response has not yet been finalized. When completed, the responses and rationale will be shared with the MICC.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mac Miller.

Motion carried.